

[22 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) The posts of Junior Hindi Translators are filled through nominations of qualified candidates to be made by the Department of Official Language. One Candidate has already been nominated and he has been asked to join by 31.3.2001. For the second vacancy, a requisition has already been sent to the Department of Official Language and the nomination is yet to be made by them.

Old schemes under implementation

2973. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to revive the old schemes in the various States;

(b) whether there is a need to wind up the old schemes which have not produced the desired result;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government, in this regard;

(d) whether any new effective schemes are proposed to be introduced by Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The review of all Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes of various Ministries/Departments of the Central Government is an on-going process. However, in the context of initiating work on the formulation of Tenth Five Year Plan, the Planning Commission has requested all Central Ministries/Departments, to complete a review of all their schemes using, *inter alia*, zero-based budget methodology before deciding on their continuation in the next five year plan. Necessary instructions/guidelines in this regard have already been circulated. In addition, an exercise has also been initiated to bring about convergence and weeding out of related/similar schemes in all sectors with a view to improve the effectiveness of schemes, avoid

duplication of effort and thin spread of resources as also reduce the overhead costs of implementing various programmes/schemes.

(d) to (f) The on-going schemes to be continued and the new schemes that may be introduced by the Government for the next five year plan would be known only when the said exercise are completed prior to the formulation of the Tenth Plan.

Development in NE States

2974. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that development in North-Eastern States has not been commensurate with huge allocations given by the Central Government during the last few decades;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to ensure optimum utilization of the financial assistance;

(c) the Planning Commission has devised some criteria that indicates the financial discipline followed by the North-Eastern States; and

(d) if so, the finding thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Development of a Region depends on a large number of factors, such as natural potential, availability of funds; and effective delivery machinery. It is fact that the North-Eastern States have been given liberal plan assistance by the Government of India. As against their share of 3.74 per cent in the total population of the country, these States were given a share of 19.30 per cent in Central assistance by the Planning Commission in 1999-2000. Ninety per cent of the plan assistance to these States is grant and only 10 per cent is treated as loan, as against 30 per cent grant and 70 per cent loan for other States. In addition, the North-Eastern States are also being given non-plan grants from the Ministry of Finance as a result of recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission to cover their non-plan deficit.